

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 10, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks, have canceled claims and have added new claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-24 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 11, and 23-24 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-10, and 13-22 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 20, 21 and 22 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 2, 6-8, 11, 15-17 and 23-24 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9

Rather than rewrite claim 2 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which claim 2 depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 so that claim 1 now includes all of the limitations of claim 2, and subsequently canceled claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 4-5 and 9 depend from and further limit claim 4-5 and 9 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 6-8

Applicants have rewritten claim 6 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 6 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 7-8 depend from and further limit claim 6, claims 7-8 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 10-11, 13-14 and 18-19

Rather than rewrite claim 11 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 10 from which claim 11 depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 10 so that claim 10 now includes all of the limitations of claim 11, and subsequently canceled claim 11. Accordingly, claim 10 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 13-14 and 18-19 depend from and further limit claim 10, claims 13-14 and 18-19 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 15-17

Applicants have rewritten claim 15 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 15 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 16-17 depend from and further limit claim 15, claims 16-17 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 20 and 23

Rather than rewrite claim 23 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 20 from which claim 23 depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 20 so that claim 20 now includes all of the limitations of claim 23, and subsequently canceled claim 23. Accordingly, claim 20 is now in allowable condition.

Claims 21 and 24

Rather than rewrite claim 24 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 21 from which claim 24 depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 21 so that claim 21 now includes all of the limitations of claim 24, and

subsequently canceled claim 24. Accordingly, claim 21 is now in allowable condition.

Claim 22

Applicants have amended claim 22 to include limitations which are similar to that of claim 21 but in method claim form. Accordingly, claim 22 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art for similar reasons.

Conclusion

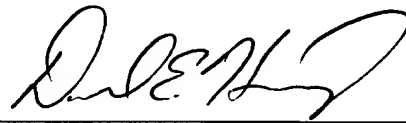
In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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